



# DESERT LOCUST UPDATE

Emergency Centre for Locust Operations



19 March 1997



## General Situation as of 19 March 1997

Populations of transient and gregarious locusts were reported to be breeding in several areas on the Red Sea coastal plains in Saudi Arabia, where control operations were undertaken. Breeding of gregarious adults and limited hatching of hoppers were reported in Sudan, 75 km north of Port Sudan. Egypt reported a small infestation of breeding locusts and hoppers.

**Madagascar reports a major, widespread *Locusta migratoria capito* and *Nomadacris septemfasciata* infestation.**

New information received since the last Bulletin (222) indicates that several groups of mature transient locusts and swarms were reported during the last week of February and the first half of March in **Saudi Arabia**.

Infestations of low density copulating and laying transient locusts were concentrated in an area around Rabigh (2242N/3910E) and Kulais (2217N/3920E). Copulating gregarious adults were found in an area around Tuwwal (2223N/3915E) and Buray Kal (2235N/3938E) on the 8th of March and around Umm Laff (2450N/3722E) and Yanbu (2350N/3830E) on the 11th and 12th. These adults were in small to medium size swarms with a density up to 20-30 locusts/sq.m. Ground control actions increased from, 1895 ha in the end of

February to 10,200 ha in the first two weeks of March but are now reported to have been completed. Breeding conditions remain favourable on the Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia with green vegetation and a damp soil.

In the extreme south-eastern part of **Egypt**, near the Sudanese border (2205N/3555E), survey teams discovered 30 ha of scattered, gregarious and copulating locusts, plus a number of hoppers of various instars.

Recent reports from Sudan show a low density infestation of gregarious adults in 3000-4000 ha near Eight, 75 km north of Port Sudan. The locusts are reported to be copulating and laying, but egg fields are being exposed by strong winds to the sun, which may lead to desiccation and the partial failure of hatching. In the second week of March, hoppers were reported to be hatching in a limited area of 120 ha.

**Somalia** reported isolated immature adults on the northern coast, near Eleye (1056N/4710E). Breeding conditions were unfavourable.

### Other Species

The major outbreak of *Locusta migratoria capito* and *Nomadacris septemfasciata* in **Madagascar** continues. A very large area in the south-west of the country between Ankazomanga (1939S/4520E) in the north, Esira (2420S/4641E) in the east, Ampanihy (2440S/4445E) in the south and Tulear (2320S/4341E) on the west coast, is reported to be infested with widely distributed swarms and hopper bands.

**Countries are urged to send results of locust survey and control operations to FAO on a regular and timely basis so other countries and donors can be kept informed of the developing locust situation.**

The FAO Desert Locust Bulletin is issued monthly, supplemented by Updates during periods of increased Desert Locust activity, and is distributed by fax, e-mail, FAO pouch and airmail by the Locusts, Other Migratory Pests and Emergency Operations Group, AGP Division, FAO, 00100 Rome, Italy.

It is also available on the Internet.

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